

## CLAIMS

1           1. A system for providing an updated database service to be available to third  
2 party subscribers, including maintaining a listing of undesirable destinations, said  
3 system comprising:  
4           a directory identifying the third party subscribers to the updated database  
5 service;  
6           a database for listing the undesirable destinations, said database accessible to  
7 the third party subscribers; and  
8           a switch device connected to said database to disable any particular  
9 telecommunication initiated by a communication sender on behalf of a third party  
10 subscriber that is directed to an undesirable destination listed in the database.

1           2. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
2           a communications network for transmitting telecommunications, said  
3 communications network comprising a network node to identify telecommunications  
4 sent on behalf of said third party subscribers

1           3. The system of claim 1 wherein said switch device disables said particular  
2 telecommunication by causing an audible message to be directed back to the  
3 communication sender.

1           4. The system of claim 3 wherein said audible message comprises a verbal  
2 message.

1           5. The system of claim 3 wherein said audible message comprises a  
2 predetermined pattern of audible sounds.

1           6. The system of claim 1 wherein said switch device adds a code identifier to  
2 the telecommunication, said code identifier preventing completion of a  
3 telecommunication to an undesirable destination listed in the database.

1           7. The system of claim 6 wherein said code identifier automatically prevents  
2 completion of a telecommunication to an undesirable destination without any  
3 intervention or action by the communication sender.

1           8. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication sender comprises  
2 automated equipment for initiating the telecommunication, and said switch device  
3 causes a disabling message to be routed back to said automated equipment in order to  
4 prevent completion of the telecommunication.

1           9. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication sender is a human agent  
2 for initiating the telecommunication, and said switch device causes an announcement  
3 message to be routed back to said human agent in order to prevent completion of the  
4 telecommunication.

1           10. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a communications network for transmitting the sales, promotional, survey or  
3 informational telecommunications, said communications network comprising one or  
4 more of the following: wireless, cable, Internet, satellite, radio, television, power  
5 lines, LAN, WAN, PSTN.

1           11. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 a communications network for transmitting telecommunications comprising  
3 one or more of the following types of messages: voice, text, alphanumeric, fax, data,  
4 image, audio, video.

1           12. The system of claim 1 further comprising:  
2           database management means in communication with said database for  
3           downloading periodic revisions to be incorporated into said database.

1           13. The system of claim 1 wherein said database comprises a do-not-contact  
2           list.

1           14. A method for enabling multiple telemarketing entities to subscribe to a  
2           database service for preventing completion of telecommunication messages sent via a  
3           communications network to selected undesirable destinations, comprising:  
4           maintaining a database accessible through the communications network, said  
5           database comprising a listing of undesirable destinations;  
6           creating a directory of subscribing telemarketing entities that are authorized  
7           users of the updated database service;  
8           uniquely identifying at a network mode particular telecommunication  
9           messages sent from or on behalf of the subscribing telemarketing entities;  
10          comparing a destination address of such uniquely identified  
11          telecommunication messages with the undesirable destinations in said database; and  
12          blocking further transmission or delivery of any such uniquely identified  
13          telecommunication message that matches an undesirable destination in said database.

1           15. The method of claim 14 which further comprises maintaining a common  
2           periodically updated database accessible to said authorized users of said database.

1           16. The method of claim 14 wherein said uniquely identified  
2           telecommunication messages include an inband identification associated with said  
3           authorized users of said database.

1           17. The method of claim 14 which further comprises transmitting the  
2           telecommunication messages via one or more of the following: wireless, cable,  
3           Internet, satellite, radio, television, power lines, LAN, WAN, PSTN.

1           18. The method of claim 14 which further comprises transmitting one or more  
2 of the following types of telecommunication messages: voice, text, alphanumeric,  
3 fax, data, image, audio, video.

1           19. A method of blocking certain telecommunications sent via a  
2 communication network by telemarketers that subscribe to a “do-not-contact”  
3 database service, said method comprising:  
4           maintaining a directory of the subscribing telemarketers;  
5           identifying at a network node selected telecommunication messages  
6 transmitted from said subscribing telemarketers;  
7           screening all such selected telecommunication messages to compare an  
8 intended destination with a database of “do-not-contact” destinations; and  
9           blocking screened messages from being delivered to an intended destination  
10 that is listed on said database.

1           20. The method of claim 19 wherein said directory comprises a list of  
2 originating message addresses for subscribing telemarketers, and said identifying  
3 recognizes said originating message addresses.

1           21. The method of claim 19 which further comprises periodically updating  
2 the database of “do-not-contact” destinations.

1           22. The method of claim 21 wherein said database comprises listing “do-not-  
2 contact” destinations in accordance with categories determined by demographic  
3 characteristics.

1           23. The method of claim 19 which further comprises overriding said blocking  
2 function based on predetermined exemptions.

1           24. The method of claim 23 wherein said overriding comprises entering an  
2 authorization code, and generating a record confirming the exemption.

1           25. A method of preventing delivery of certain telecommunications in a  
2 communication network comprising:  
3           initiating a telecommunication message on behalf of a sender for transmission  
4 via the communication network to a proposed destination address;  
5           screening the telecommunication message at a network node to compare the  
6 proposed destination address with a periodically updated database of undesirable  
7 destination addresses; and  
8           taking remedial action to prevent delivery of a selected telecommunication  
9 message having the proposed destination address listed on said periodically updated  
10 database.

1           26. The method of claim 25 wherein said initiating comprises activating  
2 automated equipment for initiating the telecommunication message, and said remedial  
3 action comprises automatically blocking delivery of said selected telecommunication  
4 message.

1           27. The method of claim 25 wherein said initiating comprises using a human  
2 agent for initiating the telecommunication message, and said remedial action  
3 comprises automatically blocking delivery of said selected telecommunication  
4 message.

1           28. The method of claim 25 wherein said initiating comprises using a human  
2 agent for initiating the telecommunication message, and said remedial action  
3 comprises giving an instruction to said human agent to terminate the transmission.

1           29. The method of claim 28 wherein said remedial action comprises an  
2 audible instruction to said human agent.

1           30. The method of claim 29 wherein said audible instruction is a verbal  
2 instruction or a coded signal.

1           31. The method of claim 25 which further comprises:  
2           providing a directory listing of subscribing message senders;  
3           identifying particular telecommunication messages transmitted from said  
4           subscribing message senders; and  
5           performing said screening and said remedial action only with respect to said  
6           particular telecommunication messages from said subscribing message senders.

1           32. The method of claim 31 which further comprises maintaining a common  
2           periodically updated database of "do-not-contact" destination addresses, said  
3           common updated database accessible to said subscribing message senders.

1           33. A system for providing an updated "do-not-contact" database service  
2           available to third party subscribers sending telecommunications via a  
3           communications network, comprising:  
4           a periodically updated database for listing the "do-not-contact" destinations;  
5           a node for receiving and forwarding selected telecommunications from a third  
6           party subscriber along the communications network to a proposed destination  
7           address, said node having access to said database for comparing the proposed  
8           destination address with the "do-not-contact" destinations in said database; and  
9           blocking means for preventing delivery of said selected telecommunications  
10          to any "do-not-contact" destinations in said database.

1           34. The system of claim 33 wherein said node is incorporated as part of the  
2           communication premises of a third party subscriber or its agent.

1           34. The system of claim 33 wherein said node is incorporated as part of the  
2           communications network separate and apart from the communication premises of a  
3           third party subscriber or its message originator.

1           35. The system of claim 33 wherein said database is incorporated as part of  
2 the communication premises of a third party subscriber or its message originator.

1           36. The system of claim 33 wherein said database is incorporated as part of  
2 the communications network separate and apart from the communication premises of  
3 a third party subscriber or its message originator.

1           37. The system of claim 36 wherein said database is accessible to other third  
2 party subscribers.